

**REMARKS**

The applicants have carefully reviewed the official action and the references it cites.

In the official action, claims 1-6 and 13-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Bossemeyer et al. (WO 99/53654). By way of the following remarks, the applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. The applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

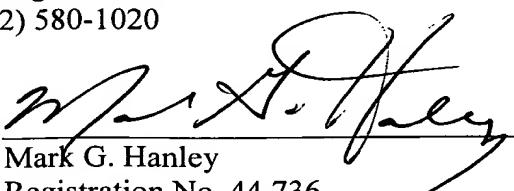
The applicants respectfully submit that Bossemeyer et al. (WO 99/53654) is disqualified as 102(b) prior art against the instant application. Specifically, the instant application claims priority to U.S. serial no. 09/040,205, filed on March 13, 1998, which supports the subject matter of the pending claims in the instant application. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that Bossemeyer et al. (WO 99/53654) is disqualified as 102(b) prior art against the instant application.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims pending in the instant application are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

If there are any remaining issues in this application, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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